

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CONAKR 00529 091529Z

55

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 /118 W

----- 016155

R 091400Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9670

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CONAKRY 0529

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR

SUBJECT : NY TIMES REPORTER VISITS GUINEA (B) AND TALKS

WITH PAIGC LEAJADERS

1. NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT THOMAS JOHNSON SPENT TWELVE DAYS IN THE SOUTHERN FRONT AREA INSIDE GUINEA (B) WITH THE PAIGC FROM MARCH 24 TO APRIL 4. HE ALSO MET WITH THE "PRESIDENT OF GUINEA (B) STATE COUNCIL", LUIS CABRAL, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PAIGC ARISTIDES PEREIRA; PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER (PRIME MINISTER) FRANCESCO MENDEZ, COMMISSIONER OF THE INTERIOR, ABDOULAI BARI; AND 2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CARMEN PEREIRA, HIGHEST RANKING WOMAN IN THE MOVEMENT. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO CONAKRY, JOHNSON MET WITH EMBOFFS AND DISCUSSED HIS OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS.

2. IN ADDITION TO DETAILED REPORTS ON HIS TRAVELS WHICH HE WILL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CONAKR 00529 091529Z

DESCRIBE IN HIS ARTICLES (EMBASSY WILL COMMENT ONLY ON FACTS

AND OBSERVATIONS NOT COVERED IN THE ARTICLES) JOHNSON HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH PAIGC LEADERS ON THEIR INTENTIONS TOWARD UN ADMISSION, THE USE OF SABOTAGE, THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US AND TOWARD GENERAL SPINOLA'S BOOK.

3. JOHNSON WAS TOLD BY PEREIRA AND OTHERS THAT THE PAIGC PLANS TO MAKE A DEFINITE APPLICATION TO JOIN THE UN AT THE NEXT UNGA. PAIGC LEADERS EXPRESSED TO JOHNSON THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE UNSYG'S ACCEPTANCE OF OBSERVERS FROM GUINEA (B) AND WITH THE US ACTION IN GRANTING VISAS TO THE OBSERVERS. IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR REQUEST TO JOIN THE UN, THE LEADERS SAID THEY ARE LOOKING TO THE US BECAUSE OF ITS OWN COLONIAL EXPERIENCES AS THE KEY TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS GOAL. JOHNSON RECEIVED THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION DURING THEIR CONVERSATIONS THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE ACTS OF SABOTAGE UNTIL AFTER THE UN VOTE AS THEY FEEL IT COULD PREJUDICE THEIR CASE. TWO ACTS OF SABOTAGE ALREADY COMPLETE, PAIGC LEADERS SAID, WERE DONE IN RESPONSE TO PORTUGUESE PROPAGANDA CLAIMS. JOHNSON ALSO HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SABOTAGE WILL BE STEPPED UP AFTER THE UN VOTE AND WILL BE PARTICULARLY SEVERE IN THE EVENT THE APPLICATION IS REFUSED. MENDEZ AND OTHER YOUNGER LEADERS WERE VERY INSISTENT ON THE NECESSITY FOR STEPPING UP THE SABOTAGE CAMPAIGN WHILE, AS REPORTED CONAKRY 328, OLDER LEADERS SUCH AS CABRAL AND PEREIRA MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY OPPOSE SABOTAGE, AND THAT THEIR VIEWS WILL PREVAIL, HOPEFULLY, UNTIL THE UN VOTE. BOTH THE LEADERS AND ELEMENTS IN THE INTERIOR, JOHNSON SAID, ARE CLOSELY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS ON THE UN APPLICATION AND THE ATTITUDE OF WESTERN COUNTRIES TO ADMISSION VIA PORTUGUESE BROADCASTS ON THE VOA AND THE BBC.

4. WHILE IN THE INTERIOR JOHNSON ATTENDED A MEETING OF GOVERNMENT CADRE AND LATER A MASS MEETING IN WHICH SPINOLA'S BOOK AND THE "PORTUGUESE INTERNAL SITUATION" WERE DISCUSSED. THE MEETING OF THE CADRE WAS RUN BY CARMEN PERIERA, WHOM JOHNSON DESCRIBED AS AN EXTREMIST. AFTER DISCUSSING SPINOLA'S PROPOSALS AND THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION, THE CADRE CONCLUDED THESE DEVELOPMENTS WERE OF PURELY PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC INTEREST AND OF NO CONCERN TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT. GUINEA (B), THEY CONCLUDED, HAD ALREADY DECLARED ITSELF INDEPENDENT AND IT ONLY REMAINED FOR THE PORTUGUESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CONAKR 00529 091529Z

TO NEGOTIATE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL. LATER THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MASS MEETING ENDORSED THESE VIEWS.

5. WHILE IN THE INTERIOR JOHNSON VISITED THE CAPTURED PORTUGUESE STRONGHOLD OF GUILLEJE WHERE HE SAID HE HAD OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING AMONG OTHER EQUIPMENT:

- A. THREE ANCIENT AMERICAN SCOUT CARS MADE BY WHITE MOTORS. HE SAID THESE VEHICLES WERE WW-II OR PRE-WW-II MODELS

AND ONE HAD "3115 CALVARY" PAINTED ON THE SIDE OF THE CHASSIS.

B. SEVERAL 81-MM MORTAR SHELLS, 4.5 BAZOOKAS, SEVERAL 107-MM MORTARS, TWO BRITISH GUNS AND SEVERAL OLD MODEL GERMAN AUTOMATIC RIFLES.

ALL OF THE FOREGOING EQUIPMENT WAS REPORTEDLY CAPTURED AT GUILEJE.

6. JOHNSON WAS TOLD BY PAIGC LEADERS THAT THEIR CURRENT STRATEGY IS TO CONCENTRATE OF POLITICAL ACTION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE "STATE OF GUINEA (B)" WHILE CONTINUING ATTACKS ON PORTUGUESE FORTIFIED POSTS IN THE INTERIOR TO BE ABLE TO OVERRUN THEM ONE BY ONE. DURING HIS VISIT HE SAID HE WITNESSED ARTILLERY ATTACKS AGAINST PADENDA KASSINE.

7. DURING HIS STAY IN THE INTERIOR JOHNSON SAID HE HAD SEEN ONLY AFRICANS. AT THE BASE AREA IN THE GUINEAN BORDER PROVINCE OF BOKE JOHNSON SAID HE SAW SEVERAL CUBAN DOCTORS AND HEARD OF OTHER CUBANS BUT NEVER SAW THEM.

8. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO MAINTAIN JOHNSON'S CONFIDENCE UNTIL HIS REPORT IS PUBLISHED. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE THE DEPT'S POUCHING COPIES OF THE REPORT WHEN IT IS PUBLISHED.
TODMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, POLICIES, JOURNALISTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CONAKR00529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740081-0435
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740456/aaaabyyd.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : NY TIMES REPORTER VISITS GUINEA (B) AND TALKS WITH PAIGC LEAJADERS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PU, PAIGC, (JOHNSON, THOMAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005